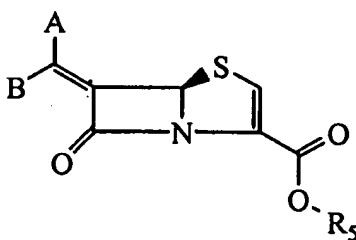


**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently amended)      A process for the preparation of compounds of the formula I



I

wherein:

one of A and B denotes hydrogen and the other is an aryl optionally substituted with one or two R<sub>2</sub>, heteroaryl optionally substituted with one or two R<sub>2</sub>, fused bicyclic heteroaryl optionally substituted with one or two R<sub>2</sub>, fused tricyclic heteroaryl optionally substituted with one or two R<sub>2</sub>, cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one or two R<sub>2</sub>, alkyl optionally substituted with one or two R<sub>2</sub>, alkenyl optionally substituted with one or two R<sub>2</sub>, alkynyl optionally substituted with one or two R<sub>2</sub>, saturated or partially saturated heteroaryl optionally substituted with one or two R<sub>2</sub>;

R<sub>5</sub> is H, C1 -C6 alkyl, C5 - C6 cycloalkyl, or CHR<sub>3</sub>OCOC1-C6alkyl;